

How to Write to Your Legislators about CEJA

Chances are you've signed a petition or sent form emails in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act, so how is writing a personal letter or email to your legislator different? The key is the personal part—an individual letter or email has your unique voice and story of why CEJA is important to you. It also is “weighted” much more heavily in the eyes of the office and the legislators that you're writing to because of the effort they understand it takes. In their eyes, it's easy for people to add their name to a petition or a send in a form letter. When you take the time to compose an email or write and mail a letter, this shows a strong commitment to whatever cause you are writing them about, and they will pay attention.

Who do I write to?

1. Find your elected officials (State Senator and Representative) using your address [here](#). (Your State Senator will be the second person listed “Senate District #...” and your State Representative will be the third person listed “Representative District #...”)
2. Next, find their email or the address of their district office at [Illinois General Assembly Senate](#) or [Illinois General Assembly House](#).
3. Governor Contact Information:
 - a. [Opinion form](#)
 - b. Office of the Governor, James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, 16-100, Chicago, IL 60601

What to say:

1. **That you live in their district!** Legislators care about their constituent's input much more than someone outside their district. It's great to put your address, or share how long you've lived in the district, or if there are any ways you're connected to the community (ex/ kids attend a certain school, participate in a religious community in the district, active w/ a local enviro group, etc).
2. **Your personal reasons for supporting the Clean Energy Jobs Act.** The more personal the better. Concerned about the future of the planet? Have health concerns connected to pollution? Impacted by the economy?
3. **A thank you, if they are a co-sponsor** (you can check whether they are one for the [House here](#), and for the [Senate here](#))
4. **Your ask: passing CEJA as soon as possible!** If they're not yet a co-sponsor, ask them to co-sponsor.
5. **Don't worry about the length.** You can keep it short and sweet if you want, or feel free to make it longer. It just needs to sound like you and should incorporate everything mentioned above.

Sample Letter:

Dear Representative Harris,

My name is Rebecca Ratliff, and I'm writing to you as a constituent living in Chicago, the Uptown neighborhood to be specific. I'm taking the time to write this email because I'm both very hopeful and concerned at the same time. I'm concerned, because with the covid-19 pandemic I've seen that over 17,000 people in the clean energy fields have lost their jobs. I witnessed that even with the massive behavioral changes this year, Chicago's air quality did not improve. And I see both the local (flooding) and global effects of climate change more and more every year. I know that as a public servant you have a thousand things to worry about, but setting Illinois on a path to clean energy must be one of the top priorities.

I don't want to know that my fellow Illinoisans downstate (or fellow Chicagoans on the Southside) are being hurt by the pollution and waste that come with our continued use of fossil fuels. I don't want children breathing in diesel fumes from the buses that sit idle at school in the mornings and afternoons. I don't want our state government to continue to be just as stagnant as our national when it comes to transitioning our economy to a greener one. I want Illinois to be the truly progressive Midwest leader I know it can be.

And this brings me to why I'm hopeful. Right now we have a bill in the House and Senate, the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) -HB 804 / SB 1718, that is remarkably comprehensive, thoughtful, and aggressive enough to take Illinois away from fossil fuels in the time frame we need to do so (the bill will have us off fossil fuels by 2030, and completely renewable by 2050). It has been co-sponsored by half the House of Representatives, including yourself which I thank you for, and over half of the Senate. We need to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act now. I implore you to use your position as the Majority House Leader to work to bring CEJA to a vote before the legislature turns over this January. Action on climate can't wait, and all the good jobs this will create can't wait either.

Thank you,
Rebecca Ratliff

Written a letter? Let us know and spread the word!

After you've sent an email or letter, let us know so we can keep track of how big an impact we are making together! Please fill out our [letter tracking form](#).

To maximize your impact, share a fun picture on social media of yourself mailing the letter. This will spread the word to your friends and family and encourage them to write a letter as well. Make sure to tag your legislators and use the hashtags #CEJACantWait and #twill. You can find your legislators' social media handles here in [CEJA legislator social media handles](#)

Sample Social Media Post:

"I wrote a letter to [SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE OF LEGISLATOR] to urge them to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act this year because #cejacantwait and I'm challenging my friends to write one too!"